

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. C. V. Piper, who is traveling as an agricultural explorer of this office, gives the following description in his letter of July 11, of the water gardens around Canton, which show the remarkable way in which the Chinese utilize their swamp land:

At the western end of the city of Canton is an extensive area of flat swamp lands which have been utilized by the Chinese in a highly developed system of water gardens. The land has been divided in small paddies of an acre or so, usually less, each surrounded by a dyke. These paddies are always covered with water usually one or two feet deep. Five different crops are grown in regular rotation, namely, lotus (*Nelumbium speciosum*), Chekoo (*Sagittaria chinensis*), Kausun (*Zizania*), water chestnut, (*Eleocharis tuberosa*?), and Lingkok (*Trapa bicornis*). A sixth crop also occurs, Ongchog (*Ipomoea reptans*), but this, as I understand, does not enter into rotation, whole paddies or parts of them being devoted constantly to this plant. At the present season (July 10) the principal crops are lotus and Trapa, but these are being harvested and in a few cases the harvest completed. At the edge of most paddies is a row of Kausun or of *Sagittaria* or both, to be used as "seed". As soon as the lotus is harvested the paddy is planted to Kausun. The seed plants of this are now about six feet out of the water. In transplanting this is cut off to two or three feet, the tufts separated into parts of about three culms each, and planted in rows four feet wide, the plants about two feet apart in the rows. One mother plant I had dug up had a single stolon two feet long about as large as a lead pencil, the joints two to three inches long. From the crop now being planted the crop will be obtained in about two months.

Trapa is planted from the seeds in the spring; water chestnuts from the corms in the fall; and *Sagittaria* from the roots also in the fall. Lotus yield both a crop of root-stocks, resembling a string of large sausages, and the pods, both of which are now in the market in abundance. Another variety is grown only for the flowers. This information is the best I could get except in the case of Kausun of which I saw new paddies just planted. Most of the Kausun planting will be in about two weeks.

The dykes between the paddies are often planted to trees, especially loongan and leitchiee. On the edges of the dykes one frequently sees taro (*Colocasia*). The Chinese all say the Kausun does not produce seed which is probably true as they cultivate it.